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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for managing and controlling data. The system includes provisions for easily and rapidly updating and managing a computer system, particularly a complex computer system in which several computers communicate with one another. The system also includes a central database which plays a key role in the management and control of the computer system. Most of the management functions are retained in the central database and remote offices, which generally do not retain data management information, communicate with the central office to retrieve data management information. The system also includes a novel approach to manipulating data.